

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are currently pending in the present application. By this amendment, claims 1 and 9 have been amended and claims 15-19 have been added. Reconsideration of the claims in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 and 8-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Yasui in view of Hanagan.

Independent claims 1 and 9 have been amended to recite a fairing having an upwardly and rearwardly inclined rear end face.

Yasui alone nor when combined with Hanagan teach a fairing having an upwardly and rearwardly inclined rear end face. To the contrary, the rear end face of the removable storage compartment of Hanagan inclines downward so that it resembles the shape of the motorcycle fender to which it is adapted to be attached. In fact, the Applicants believe that the combination of Hanagan with Yasui is not even appropriate. Yasui discloses a snowmobile wherein the seat rests on a tubular frame. Although a U-shaped portion of the tubular frame extends beyond the seat, one would not be inclined to attach the removable storage compartment of Hanagan to the tubular frame since the storage compartment would pivot about the frame and thus would be unstable. Hanagan does not teach removable storage compartments of any other shapes which would be suitable for attachment to such a snowmobile frame, nor does Hanagan teach a removable storage compartment with an inclined rear end face.

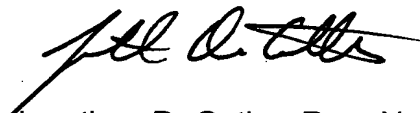
Claims 2-6, 8, 10-13 recited additional features of the present invention and are believed to be patentable with respect to base claims 1 and 9 and the additional features found therein.

The Applicants also believe that new claims 15-19 are patentable over the prior art because the prior art does not teach a seat nor a fairing behind the seat having upwardly and rearwardly extending rear end faces.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that all of the currently pending claims are allowable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan D. Cutler', written in a cursive style.

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